(c) what are the reasons for not according recognition to medical colleges with three year courses in Chhattisgarh by the Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per Medical Council of India Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997, the duration of MBBS course is five and half years including one year compulsory rotating internship. So far as recognition of three years medical courses in Chhattisgarh is concerned, the Medical Council of India has informed that the Council is not in favour of recognizing courses of shorter duration than prescribed in the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997.

NRHM in Hoshiarpur, Punjab

2491. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of programmes started in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab under National Rural Health Mission Scheme;

(b) the amount allocated during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of work done during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The National Rural Health Mission has been launched on 12th April, 2005. It covers the entire country with special focus on 18 States for providing integrated comprehensive and effective primary healthcare to the poor, vulnerable sections of the society. The Mission is also functioning in the State of Punjab. The first year of the Mission is the preparatory phase during which the institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the Mission have been laid down.

In the State of Punjab, the departments of Health and Family Welfare have been merged for better coordination of the various activities. The State has also set up the basic institutional framework of the Mission including the State and District Health Missions. The State has also merged the various societies under different programmes. All Rogi Kalyan Samitis at district level and CHCs level have been set up.

An amount of Rs. 73.86 crore has been released for the State of Punjab during 2005-06.

National Population Policy

2492. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Population Policy, 2000 unanimously adopted by the Parliament has clearly eschewed cohesive disincentive-based/ quota oriented population policies;

(b) what steps Government are taking to implement this approach; and

(c) whether Government are aware that many State Governments are following population policies not in conformity with the above approach and the steps Government are taking in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP-2000) is based on the commitment for improving the quality of life that people lead without any coercion or controlling the options of the citizens. The NPP 2000 was approved by the Government and laid on the table of both houses of Parliament in March, 2000.

(b) All the State Governments were requested to formulate State specific plans to implement the National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP). The Government has also launched the National Rural Health Mission on 12.4.2005 to provide for comprehensive integrated primary healthcare services throughout the country and address the unmet needs for contraception which *inter-alia* seeks to stabilize the population growth in the country.

(c) Government of India has taken up with the States the issue of bringing the State Population Policies in line with the objectives of the National Population Policy, 2000.